

UNDERSTANDING AND RELEASING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

God's Purpose, Plan, and Partnership with Mankind

The Origin of Spiritual Authority: Creation - Genesis 1-2

Day 6 Creatures of Land, and **Mankind**
Day 5 Creatures of the Sea and Sky
Day 4 Sun and Moon
Day 3 Land (and vegetation)
Day 2 Sea and Sky
Day 1 Light and Dark

Hebrew emphasis - "best is last"

- Mankind is the *last* creature created on the *last* day

The Lord God formed **the man** from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7

Then the Lord God made **a woman** from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:22

The Creation of Mankind

Genesis 1:24-31

Then God said, "Let *us* make man in our image, in our likeness,
and let them rule

over the fish of the sea and
the birds of the air,
over the livestock,
over all the earth,
and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 1:26

"*Us*" - 'elohiym (430) - special use: the supreme God

El - god, with Hebrew plural ending

So God created man in his own *image*, in the *image* of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

Image - tselem (6754) - to shade (shadow); resemblance,
a representative figure

Note: Numbers in parenthesis are index reference in Hebrew Lexicon, Strong's Concordance

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?
You have made him a little lower than **'elohiym**.

Psalm 8:4-5 (See RSV)

1. Mankind is the only being created *in God's image*
2. Mankind is created *male and female*
3. Mankind is given *authority to rule*

The Forming of the Man, Adam

Genesis 1:27 tells us that God made Man, male and female, in his image.

Genesis 2:18-24 tells us more specifically how God made the male and the female.

The Lord God *formed* man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Genesis 2:7
formed - yatsar (3334) - to press, to squeeze into shape, to mold into a form.

Same as Isaiah 44:2 He who made you, who *formed* you from the womb, and who will *help* you:

help- azar (5826) - surround, protect

The Making of the Woman, Eve - Genesis 2:15-24

The Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be **alone**. I will make a helper suitable for him."
Genesis 2:18

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's *ribs* and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God *made* a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:20-22

made - bahnah (1129) - to build, to make, as in to make children

ribs - tsalah (6763)- curve of the body; portion of a door(way), hence, *side*

Figurative or literal bone? Consider Adam's comment:

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' ('iyshshah) for she was taken out of man ('iysh)."

Genesis 2:23

'iysh (376) - another, any, champion, man; related to 'iysh (786) - entity, man

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

Woman is a suitable helper

“It is not good that man should be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”
Genesis 2:18

helper suitable - ezer (5828) - help, aid
- kenegdo - fit, suitable, appropriate

ezer - help (1) to make it easier for a person to do something; specifically, to give (one in need) something necessary to do part of the work; to ease or to share the labor of
(2) to make it easier for something to exist, happen, develop, improve; specifically, to make more effective, larger, intense; aid the growth of, promote; to cause improvement in, remedy, alleviate, relieve.

Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary, Abridged

Ezer - help used in reference to God:
Deuteronomy 33:7, 33:26, 33:29, and
Psalm 33:20, 70:5, 146:5

“...come quickly to me, O God. You are my *help* and deliverer. Psalm 70:5
Blessed is he whose *help* is the God of Jacob. Psalm 146:5

ezer kenegdo: A helper corresponding to him, i.e., equal and adequate to himself

*The New Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew and English
Lexicon of the Old Testament*, page 671c, Associated
Publishers and Authors, Lafayette, Indiana, 1907

equal - from plain, even, flat.
(2) having the same rights, privileges, ability, rank.
(3) a person not inferior nor superior to another.

Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary, Abridged

Adam called his wife Eve, because she would become mother of all the living.
Genesis 3:20

Eve - from chavvah (2332) - life giver. Also, to encamp.

Adam and Eve - Co-Regents of Earth

Their Role, Responsibility, and Relationship to the Earth

Role and Responsibility of Man and Woman:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,
and let them **rule over**
the fish of the sea and the birds of the air,
over the livestock, over all the earth,
and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 1:26

God blessed them and said to them,
"Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and **subdue it**.
Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and
over every living creature that moves along the ground."

Genesis 1:28

Rule over (NIV), *dominion* (RSV) radah (7287) - prevail against,
reign, rule

subdue (NIV), *subdue* (RSV) kabash (3533) - keep under, bring into
subjection, to bring
into balance

Implications

1. The Earth needs regents.
2. The Earth needs rulership and balance.
3. The Regents have power to accomplish balance of Earth.
4. The Co-Regents are male and female

Summary

Man and woman serve the Earth as co-regents, governing and balancing the matters of the inhabitants of the Earth. They have dominion over their domain. As the highest beings in the created order, fashioned in the image of God, they are the Creator's agents operating in his place and in his appointed, anointed position. Functioning in divine authority and power they together provide order, life, health, and productivity.

Failure to operate in God's call and role results in continuing disturbance, disorder, and disease. Viewed in perspective of the Fall, Mankind loses aspects of his power, but not his position nor authority. There is no replacement for the co-regents. It is in the redemptive activity of God and the re-establishment of his power via the Holy Spirit which brings about the re-seating of mankind to the throne of dominion. It is the grasping of the role of redeemed humankind,

collectively and individually, which allows men and women to fulfill the call - Regents of the Earth.

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Power to Transform

I have given you *authority* to overcome all the power of the enemy...”

Jesus, Luke 10:18-19

Authority

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them *rule*...over all the earth. Genesis 1:26

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. *Rule* over ...on the ground. Genesis 2:28

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you *authority* to overcome all the power of the enemy...”

Luke 10:18-19

He called his twelve disciples and gave them *authority* to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. Matthew 10:1

Authority

1. Invested with legal or rightful power
2. License or permission to act
3. That which is derived from the author = creator, maker, producer

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

The Relationship of Authority and Power

Exousia (Grk) - **Authority** is the ability to perform an act or action
(internal, potential)

Dunamis (Grk) - **Power** is authority exercised or demonstrated
(external, action, results)

Authority must be in submission to higher authority

But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, “Go,” and he goes; and that one, “Come,” and he comes. Luke 7:7-8

The words that I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father living in

me, who is doing his work.

Jesus, John 14:10

...how he (Jesus) went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Acts 10:38

The Key to Releasing Authority

Jesus' extraordinary humility and submission to God the Father allowed him to exercise highest authority in his ministry.

*In God's order of things, every human being is created to be in submission to a higher authority. "Submit to God and be at peace."
Job 22:21 **The one who is all-submitted can utilize all-authority for maximum usefulness.***

Esther S. Ilinsky

Authority and Power

All authority *in* heaven and *on* earth has been given to me. ... And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:18, 20

I have given you *authority* to overcome all the power of the enemy..."

Jesus, Luke 10:18-19

But you will receive power (dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father.

¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 14: 12-14

Partnership - Why God waits to work until we pray -

God honors the authority and principles he has designed. He has granted omninion authority to human beings.

God does not violate these principles, but chooses, instead, to call us into prayer for the things He wishes to do.

THE POWER OF PRAYER, Brad Long, p. 13

..If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

II Chronicles 7:14-15

REGENCY OF THE BELIEVERS

Authority over Land

The Goodness and Godness of Creation

Pre-Fall -

God saw all that **he had made**, and it was **very good**. Genesis 2:31

Good - from Anglo-Saxon: "god"; of value, of worth, of God;
hence, godly

Post-Fall -

For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, **being understood from what has been made**, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:20

Implication #1

Land is inherently good in that it comes from God and reflects the Nature of God.

Adam's and Eve's Role, Responsibility, and Relationship to the Earth

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them **rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 1:26

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and **subdue it**. **Rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves along the ground."

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rule

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The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15

Implication #2:

1. *The Earth reveals God's nature and character*
2. *The Earth needs rulership and balance*
3. *The Regents have authority and power to accomplish*

How Human Behavior Affects Land

Genesis 3:14-19

1. Serpent cursed (3:14-15)
2. Woman's birth pain increased (3:16)
3. **Ground cursed** on account of Adam (3:17-19)

To Adam he (God) said, "because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' **"Cursed is the ground** because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground since from it you were taken; ...

Genesis 3:17-19

The Lord said (to Cain), "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's's blood cries out to me from the **ground**. Now you are under a curse and **driven from the ground**, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from you hand. When you **work the ground**, it will no longer yield its crops to you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Genesis 4:10

Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even **the land was defiled**; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

Leviticus 18:24-25

You engaged in prostitution with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and provoked me to anger with your increasing promiscuity. So I stretched out my hand against you and **reduced your territory**;

Ezekiel 16:26-27

Implication #3

Human behavior (sin) can negatively affect land.

If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will **heal their land**.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (See also II Chronicles 6:36-40)

If land can be healed, then land can be “sick”.

Implication #4

Human behavior (confession, prayer, blessing) can positively affect land.

Historical Example

King Megacles and the Athenian Plague, circa 600 B. C.

Recorded by Diogenes Laertius, *The Lives of the Eminent Philosophers*,
c. 300 A. D., Vol. 1, p. 110

Researched by Don Richardson, *Eternity in Their Hearts*, p. 9-18

Discussion:

1. What information in this session has caught your attention and vision?
2. What is God showing you to pray over?
3. Who can you invite to work with you in prayer over these specific concerns?

